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Land at Old Bideford Road, Roundswell Barnstaple, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Trench Report



Ref: 113760.02
August 2016



**Land at Old Bideford Road,
Roundswell
Barnstaple, Devon**

Archaeological Evaluation Trench Report

Prepared for:
NPS South West
Venture House
1 Capital Court
Exeter
EX2 7FW

On behalf of:
Devon County Council
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QD

Prepared by:
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Old Sarum
Salisbury
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk


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Archaeological Evaluation Trench Report

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Land at Old Bideford Road, Roundswell Barnstaple, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Devon County Council to carry out an archaeological evaluation at land at Old Bideford Road, Barnstaple (NGR 254360 131830).

The fieldwork was undertaken over four days (1-4 August 2016).

A total of seven trial trenches were excavated by machine across the development area. None of the trenches could be located on the positions defined in the written scheme of investigation due to on-site constraints relating to previously unknown overhead power lines and extant vegetation. The moving of the trenches was agreed with Stephen Reed, acting on behalf of the Historic Environment Team at Devon County Council.

Only three of the seven excavated trenches contained archaeological features which consisted of a small linear feature (consistent with land drainage) and a more substantial linear feature, likely to be a field boundary. A very small quantity of post medieval finds was recovered from this feature.

This evaluation has identified a very low density of archaeological features of limited archaeological significance, as such; no further mitigation work is anticipated.



Land at Old Bideford Road, Roundswell, Barnstaple, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by NPS south West on behalf of Devon County Council and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Diane Rider in this respect.

Wessex Archaeology would also to thank Stephen Reed (Historic Environment Team, Devon County Council) for his advice and monitoring throughout the project.

The assistance of Lee Newton (Wessex Archaeology) and Craig Fraoin (Luke Furze Earth Moving Ltd.) is also duly acknowledged.

The fieldwork was directed by Tom Blencowe, assisted by Phoebe Hewitt. This report was compiled by Tom Blencowe. The finds were reported on by Lorraine Mephram. The report illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Bruce Eaton.



Land at Old Bideford Road, Roundswell Barnstaple, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Trench Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by NPS South West on behalf of Devon County Council (DCC, hereafter the 'Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Old Bideford Road, Roundswell, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 3NL (hereafter 'the Site' **Figure 1**). The Site is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid (OS NGR) co-ordinates 254360, 131830.

1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was commissioned following pre-application discussions with Stephen Reed at the DCC Historic Environment Team who advised that:

The proposed development site lies in an area of archaeological potential close to an area where aerial photography has identified a possible double ditched enclosure that may indicate the presence of prehistoric or Romano-British activity in the vicinity. The exposure of a 'paved area' by a local farmer in the field to the south may also indicate the presence of earlier settlement or a road in this area. As such, groundworks for the construction of housing in this area have the potential to expose and destroy archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with the putative prehistoric and later activity in the vicinity.

For this reason and in accordance with Policy ENV14 of the North Devon Local Plan and paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) the Historic Environment Team would advise the relevant Planning Authority that any consent granted should carry the condition as worded below, based on model Condition 55 as set out in Appendix A of Circular 11/95, whereby:

'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.'

The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the District Planning Authority.

Reason

'To ensure, in accordance with Policy ENV14 of the North Devon Local Plan and paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, that an appropriate record is made of archaeological evidence that may be affected by the development'

I would envisage a suitable programme of work as taking the form of a staged programme of archaeological works, commencing with the excavation of a series of



evaluative trenches to determine the presence and significance of any heritage assets with archaeological interest that will be affected by the development.

1.1.3 The proposed works consisted of:

- *Eight evaluation trenches 30 m long by 1.8 m wide*

1.1.4 The proposed trench locations, as advised by Stephen Reed at the DCC Historic Environment Team (reference Arch/DM/ND/28727), are shown on **Figure 1**.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located in Roundswell, which is a suburb on the west side of Barnstaple in North Devon. It is an irregular plot of land approximately 2.93 ha in area. It is bounded by Sainsbury's supermarket to the west, Old Bideford Road to the north-west, properties on Grange Avenue to the north, Old Torrington Road to the east and Roundswell Business Park on Gratton Way to the south. The majority of the Site is grassed and there are hedgerows/tree vegetation along the boundaries. The south side of the Site has a thicker band of vegetation and there are also tree lines running east-west and south-west to north-east across part of the Site. The latter marks part of an old boundary.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the Site is Crackington Formation Mudstone and Siltstone sedimentary bedrock with superficial deposits of Till, consisting of Mid-Pleistocene Diamicton (BGS data, 2016). Ground level on Site rises to the north and east. It ranges from approximately 29.4 m aOD in the south to 30.45 m aOD in the north.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background is based on a search of the Devon Historic Environment Record (DHER) received on the 10th June 2016. The DHER reference number for the search is Arch/DM/ND/28727a.

2.1.2 The DHER covered a 1 km radius of the Site recording 53 monuments and four archaeological events. None of these records lie within the Site boundary. Records of relevance to the Site will be discussed in the period sections below.

Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

2.1.3 There is very little known datable evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the Site. However, it is likely that the local landscape was settled to some degree over these periods as cropmarks are known at two locations which appear to reflect the buried remains of enclosures. One of these cropmarks is located approximately 80 m to the south-west of the Site. These features have not been subject to excavation and so have not been dated. They are detailed in the 'undated' section below. The only datable evidence for prehistoric activity recorded within the 1 km search area is a stray find of a stone axe head found at Larkbere Plantation approximately 500 m to the south of the Site.

2.1.4 There are no records of any sites or finds dating from the Romano-British period in the 1 km search area.

Early medieval and medieval (AD 410 – 1500)

2.1.5 Evidence suggests that Roundswell Farm situated approximately 280 m to the south of the Site has medieval origins. An archaeological watching brief by Southwest Archaeology



at the former Roundswell Farm recorded a large quantity of 13th and 14th century pottery indicative of medieval occupation in the vicinity. Approximately 140 m to the north of the Site is the location of a former medieval manor house, Hele Manor. It is likely that the Site would have been located on land associated with the manor to the north.

- 2.1.6 Medieval pottery has been found elsewhere within the 1 km search area including at Larkbere approximately 550 m to the east of the Site and at Herton Farm approximately 640 m to the east of the Site. A medieval curvilinear enclosure, though to be of an early date was identified from historic mapping approximately 720 m south-west of the Site at Brynsworthy. In all the evidence suggests that the locality of the Site was well populated during the medieval period.

Post-medieval, 19th century and modern (AD 1500 – present day)

- 2.1.7 Much of the land to the south-east of the Site is occupied by a designed landscape, the Larkbear Plantation, a north-western part of Tower Park, the grounds of the Tawstock Court Estate. The current house at Tawstock dates from 1800 replaced an Elizabethan mansion of 1623. Larkbear Plantation dates from the early 19th century but was expanded in the late 19th century. The estate's West Lodge is located 45 m south-east of the Site at the estate's west entrance.
- 2.1.8 During the post-medieval period the area's medieval farms continued in use with post-medieval pottery recorded from excavations at Roundswell Farm. Upcott Farm located 830 m to the south of the Site dates from the 16th century and is Grade II Listed.
- 2.1.9 Several historic structures dating from the 20th century are located within the 1 km search area. These include the North Devon Crematorium, located 130 m south of the Site on the east side of Old Torrington Road, the site of a 1930s swimming pool and a former sanatorium at Eilerslie located approximately 900 m north-west of the Site. Second World War features consist of a rifle range approximately 850 m north of the Site.

Site

- 2.1.10 Ordnance Survey from the 1880s mapping depicts the Site as a series of regular fields to the south of Old Bideford Road, with a small woodland, Hele Copse to the south. The fields are likely to be post-medieval enclosures and may reflect the enclosure of a open medieval landscape associated with Hele Manor. The west side of the Site was crossed by a track running from the north-east to south-west joining Old Bideford Road. It led between Hele Copse, to the south of the Site and the manor presumably as an access track to the woodland. The copse was redeveloped after 1976 and is now part of an industrial estate.
- 2.1.11 Later Ordnance Survey mapping shows that by the early 1930s the Site was situated on the edge of the expanding town of Barnstaple with housing situated around Hele Manor to the north. By the late 1960s housing is depicted along the north-east boundary of the Site and by the 1992s the Site is shown surrounded by modern development in the form of an industrial estate to the south and supermarket to the west.

Undated

- 2.1.12 There are several undated features in close proximity to the Site. To the immediate south of the Site a 'paved area' was recorded by a farmer within an area since redeveloped as an industrial estate. It is speculated that the paving could have been related to a building or road surface in this area.



- 2.1.13 Approximately 80 m to the south of the Site a cropmark was recorded that is thought to reflect the corner of a double ditched curvilinear enclosure. The enclosure would have been located within the area of the former Hele Copse. The enclosure is undated but could be of prehistoric or Romano-British date. The area in which it is located was redeveloped as an industrial estate. Another enclosure identified as a cropmark is located to the west of Herton, which could also represent early settlement in the area.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation, as defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2016a), were to:
- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;*
 - *Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
 - *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;*
 - *Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2016) and in accordance with the standards outlined in the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2014a).
- 4.1.2 Relevant details of the methodologies employed, fully defined in the WSI (WA 2016) are summarised below.

4.2 Health and Safety

- 4.2.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 4.2.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.2.3 WA supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client prior to the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any ground work commenced.

4.3 Trial trenching methodology

- 4.3.1 The trench locations provided were to be laid out using GPS. Upon initial access to the Site it was clear that this layout would not be feasible due to unanticipated constraints in the form of overhead power lines and extant, dense vegetation. Therefore the decision was taken, with agreement from Stephen Reed (DCC), to dynamically place trenches within the available working space. Final trench locations are shown in **Figure 2**.



- 4.3.2 In addition to disruption caused by vegetation, an overhead power line was found to cross the site on an east, north-east to west, south-west alignment. Goal posts were required to permit safe access for the excavator beneath in accordance with Health and Safety Executive Information Sheet 8 *Working safely near overhead electricity power lines* (HSE 2012). The presence of the overhead electricity power lines also further restricted the available working space for the location of the trial trenches effectively blocking a tract of land directly beneath and approximately 10m either side of the overhead power line as shown in **Figure 2**.
- 4.3.3 A total of seven trenches of varying length were successfully excavated using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified Archaeologist.
- 4.3.4 Machine excavation continued in spits to the top of archaeological levels or natural deposits, whichever was higher. All excavated spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts for the purposes of finds retrieval.
- 4.3.5 Where appropriate, the base of the trenches and surfaces of archaeological deposits was cleaned by hand. All trenches and any features they contained were surveyed by GPS to produce a site plan that is related to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum (Newlyn).
- 4.3.6 Appropriate sampling of any potential archaeological features and deposits identified in the evaluation trenches was undertaken by hand in order to address the aims of the evaluation, and recorded to professionally required standards.
- 4.3.7 Once the archaeological investigation was completed to the satisfaction of Stephen Reed (DCC), trenches were backfilled by machine using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated. They were left level on completion and no further reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.
- 4.3.8 During the excavation of Trench 5 the presence of slow worms (*Anguis fragilis*) was detected. Once observed at Trench 5, contact was made with the Client to ascertain permission to continue with the proposed works. A further slow worm was observed during the reinstatement of Trench 2. As a result of these sightings all spoil was checked before reinstatement to ensure the absence of further slow worms in areas of activity.
- 4.4 Recording**
- 4.4.1 All trenches and any exposed archaeological features/deposits within them were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system.
- 4.4.2 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This includes both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principle features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 4.4.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using a digital camera with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embed the appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.



4.5 Finds and environmental sampling

Finds

- 4.5.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.
- 4.5.2 All retained artefacts, as a minimum were processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of the agreed repository. The treatment of artefacts and environmental samples was in accordance with the ClfA's *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).
- 4.5.3 All artefacts recovered during the excavation remain the property of the landowner. On completion of the archaeological post excavation programme and with the permission of the landowner, it is anticipated that any artefacts will be deposited with the relevant museum.

Environmental

- 4.5.4 Environmental sampling was to be, where appropriate, undertaken in accordance with WA's *Guidelines for Environmental Sampling* along with the ClfA's Standard Guidance documents and *Environmental Archaeology; A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)* (English Heritage 2011).
- 4.5.5 No environmental sampling was undertaken during the trial trench evaluation as no appropriate well-sealed and datable contexts were identified.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Of the eight trenches proposed and approved in the WSI (WA 2016), only seven trenches were excavated. These seven trenches were located dynamically on the ground in such a way as to avoid the overhead power lines and areas of dense vegetation.
- 5.1.2 Of the seven trenches, four contained no archaeological features only clearly modern disturbance. The remaining three (Trenches 3, 5 and 7) contained linear features.
- 5.1.3 Detailed descriptions are tabulated in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

- 5.2.1 The overlying soil sequence encountered was broadly consistent across the site. A dark brown silty clay loam supporting thick, well established turf was found to overlie a lighter silty clay which in turn sealed the natural, a mid-yellowish clay. Inclusions within the deposits were sparse to rare and generally consisted of sub rounded mudstone fragments no greater than 0.20 in diameter.
- 5.2.2 The depth of machined overburden was also consistent across the site, approximately 0.50m below present ground level (BGL).



5.3 Modern disturbance

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 contained two land drains both aligned north north-east to south south-west as well as an area of modern disturbance (including concrete, glass and plastic debris) to the north-western limit of the trench. The same disturbance was also detected to the eastern end of Trench 3 and is likely derived from construction activity relating to the properties situated along Grange Avenue.
- 5.3.2 Trenches 6 and 7, located to the western edge of the Site, both showed a similar build-up of modern material including more concrete, glass and plastic debris to their western most limits. This material coincided with a marked change in vegetation from tussocks of grass to dense nettles (*Urtica dioica* sp.). This material is likely derived from construction activity relating to the Roundswell Church and supermarket development.

5.4 Post medieval/modern features

- 5.4.1 The north-south aligned linear feature recorded in Trench 3 (304) was excavated and found to consist of a shallow gully with concave sides. Although undated, the form and fine clay fill of this feature suggest it is pertaining to drainage.
- 5.4.2 The linear feature observed continuing south, south-west to north, north-east along the length of Trench 5 produced post-medieval pottery finds and correlates with a former boundary, the remnant of which can be traced along Old Bideford Road. This feature was also detected at the south-eastern end of Trench 7. A slot was started in this feature but had to be abandoned due to ground water ingress, although more post medieval pottery was recovered before abandoning the excavation.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Finds were recovered from two contexts (the fill of ditch 504, and context 705), and comprised a small quantity of ceramics (pottery and ceramic building material). One of the pottery sherds is medieval; all other finds are post-medieval/modern. Details of all finds are given in **Table 1**. These finds have not been retained.
- 6.1.2 The medieval sherd is identifiable as North Devon coarseware (Markeson 1980, fabric A; Allan and Perry 1982, fabric 1), and assumed to have been made in Barnstaple, from the evidence of wasters. A date range of 13th to 15th century is suggested; in this instance, the sherd is clearly residual in the context in which it was found.

Table 1: All finds by context

Context	Material	Quantity	Description
505	Pottery	1 sherd, 2g	Medieval, North Devon coarse ware
505	Pottery	3 sherds, 11g	Modern, unglazed redware flowerpot
505	Pottery	1 sherd, 41g	Post-medieval, glazed redware
505	Ceramic Bdg Mat	2 frags, 53g	Post-medieval, field drain and roof tile
705	Pottery	1 sherd, 181g	Post-medieval, North Devon gravel-tempered ware



7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 Linear features were identified within three of the trenches – Trenches 3, 5 and 7. All these features appear to be associated with either field boundaries (Trenches 5 and 7) or field drainage (Trench 3) and are all likely to be of post-medieval date.

8.2 Recommendations

- 8.2.1 The results of the evaluation suggest that the Site is of low archaeological potential. It should be noted that it was not possible to excavate the full number of evaluation trenches due to on-site constraints. Never-the-less, no further mitigation is recommended.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon. Deposition of any finds with The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 Archive

- 9.2.1 On completion of the report a cross referenced and internally consistent archive will be produced, which will include paper records, photographic records, artefacts/ecofacts and digital data will be prepared following the standard guidelines for the preparation of archaeological archives by the Museum of London, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995, ClfA 2014c, Brown 2011, ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code (**113760**), and a full index will be prepared.
- 9.2.3 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the DHER. This will include and uploaded pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

9.3 Storage

- 9.3.1 No charge will be made for the temporary storage of finds or archives during the period when WA are undertaking analysis or report preparation.
- 9.3.2 However, if after completion and submission of the report, finds and archives cannot be deposited with the relevant museum due to circumstances beyond WA's control, a charge will be made for storage.



- 9.3.3 A charge for storage may also be made where a delay is caused by lack of confirmation of post fieldwork analyses and report, if the delay exceeds three months.

9.4 Discard policy

- 9.4.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.4.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993 and 1995; EH 2011).

9.5 Copyright

- 9.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003.

9.6 Security Copy

- 9.6.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown); upon completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A (an ISO standardised version of the Portable Document Format, PDF), designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Trench summary tables

TRENCH 1			
Dimensions: 21 x 1.8m		Depth: 0.50m	Ground Level:
Coordinates (NGR):			
Context	Description		Depth (m):
101	Topsoil	Dark brown with greyish hue, silty clay loam. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.21
102	Subsoil	Mid brown with orange hue, silty clay. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizons with top soil and natural	0.33
103	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with rare sub rounded/sub angular gravel less than 0.02m. Diffuse horizon with sub soil.	0.50+

TRENCH 2			
Dimensions: 22 x 1.8m		Depth: 0.50m	Ground Level:
Coordinates (NGR):			
Context	Description		Depth (m):
201	Topsoil	Dark brown with greyish hue, silty clay loam with rare sub angular/sub rounded gravel less than 0.02m. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.24
202	Subsoil	Mid brown with orange hue, silty clay. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizons with top soil and natural	0.42
203	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with rare sub rounded/sub angular gravel less than 0.02m. Diffuse horizon with sub soil.	0.50+

TRENCH 3			
Dimensions: 22 x 1.8m		Depth: 0.43m	Ground Level:
Coordinates (NGR):			
Context	Description		Depth (m):
301	Topsoil	Dark brown with greyish hue, silty clay loam with rare sub angular/sub rounded gravel less than 0.02m. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.22
302	Subsoil	Mid brown with orange hue, silty clay. Compact with worm action and rooting. Sparse inclusions of sub angular/sub rounded gravel 0.02 – 0.04m. Diffuse horizons with top soil and natural	0.32
303	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with rare sub rounded/sub angular gravel 0.02 – 0.06m. Diffuse horizon with sub soil.	0.43+
304	Cut	Shallow, linear gully with concave sides and rounded base.	0.17
305	Fill	Fill of gully 304. Clay, mid grey mottled with yellow. Sub angular/sub rounded gravel 0.02 – 0.04m. Undated	0.17



TRENCH 4			
Dimensions: 20 x 1.8m		Depth: 0.44m	Ground Level:
Coordinates (NGR):			
Context	Description		Depth (m):
401	Topsoil	Dark brown with greyish hue, silty clay loam with rare sub angular/sub rounded gravel less than 0.02m. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizon with subsoil.	N/A
402	Subsoil	Mid brown with orange hue, silty clay. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizons with top soil and natural	N/A
403	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with rare sub rounded/sub angular gravel 0.02 – 0.06m. Diffuse horizon with sub soil.	0.44+

TRENCH 5			
Dimensions: 20 x 1.8m		Depth: 0.51m	Ground Level:
Coordinates (NGR):			
Context	Description		Depth (m):
501	Topsoil	Dark brown with greyish hue, silty clay loam with rare sub angular/sub rounded gravel less than 0.02m. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.30
502	Subsoil	Mid brown with orange hue, silty clay. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizons with top soil and natural	0.40
503	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with rare sub rounded/sub angular gravel 0.02 – 0.06m. Diffuse horizon with sub soil.	0.51
504	Cut	Post medieval ditch/field boundary	0.71
505	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 504. Dark brown clay with sparse sub angular/sub rounded gravel 0.02m.	0.71
506	Cut	Land drain	0.99
507	Fill	Secondary fill of land drain 506. Dark grey clay with sparse sun angular/sub rounded gravel 0.02 - .0.08m	0.99

TRENCH 6			
Dimensions: 14 x 1.8m		Depth: 0.60m	Ground Level:
Coordinates (NGR):			
Context	Description		Depth (m):
601	Topsoil	Dark brown with greyish hue, silty clay loam with rare sub angular/sub rounded gravel less than 0.02m. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.16
602	Subsoil	Mid brown with orange hue, silty clay. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizons with top soil and natural. Modern glass observed.	0.37
603	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with rare sub rounded/sub angular gravel 0.02 – 0.06m. Diffuse horizon with sub soil.	0.45+

TRENCH 7			
Dimensions: 20 x 1.8m		Depth: 0.5m	Ground Level:
Coordinates (NGR):			
Context	Description		Depth (m):
701	Topsoil	Dark brown with greyish hue, silty clay loam with rare sub angular/sub rounded gravel less than 0.02m. Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizon with subsoil.	0.23
702	Subsoil	Mid brown with orange hue, silty clay. Common sub angular/sub rounded flint and gravel 0.02 – 0.04mm Compact with worm action and rooting. Diffuse horizons with top soil and natural	0.42
703	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay with rare sub rounded/sub angular gravel less than 0.02m. Diffuse horizon with sub soil.	0.50+



11.2 Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-260341

Project details

Project name	Old Bideford Road, Barnstaple, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Devon County Council to carry out an archaeological evaluation at land at Old Bideford Road, Barnstaple (NGR 254360 131830). The fieldwork was undertaken over four days (1-4 August 2016). A total of seven trial trenches were excavated by machine across the development area. None of the trenches could be located on the positions defined in the written scheme of investigation due to on-site constraints relating to previously unknown overhead power lines and extant vegetation. The moving of the trenches was agreed with Stephen Reed, acting on behalf of the Historic Environment Team at Devon County Council. Only three of the seven excavated trenches contained archaeological features which consisted of a small linear feature (consistent with land drainage) and a more substantial linear feature, likely to be a field boundary. A very small quantity of post medieval finds was recovered from this feature. This evaluation has identified a very low density of archaeological features of limited archaeological significance, as such; no further mitigation work is anticipated.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2016 End: 04-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	113760 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DEVON NORTH DEVON BARNSTAPLE Old Bideford Road
Study area	2.93 Hectares
Site coordinates	SS 54360 31830 51.06674663885 -4.078822898078 51 04 00 N 004 04 43 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
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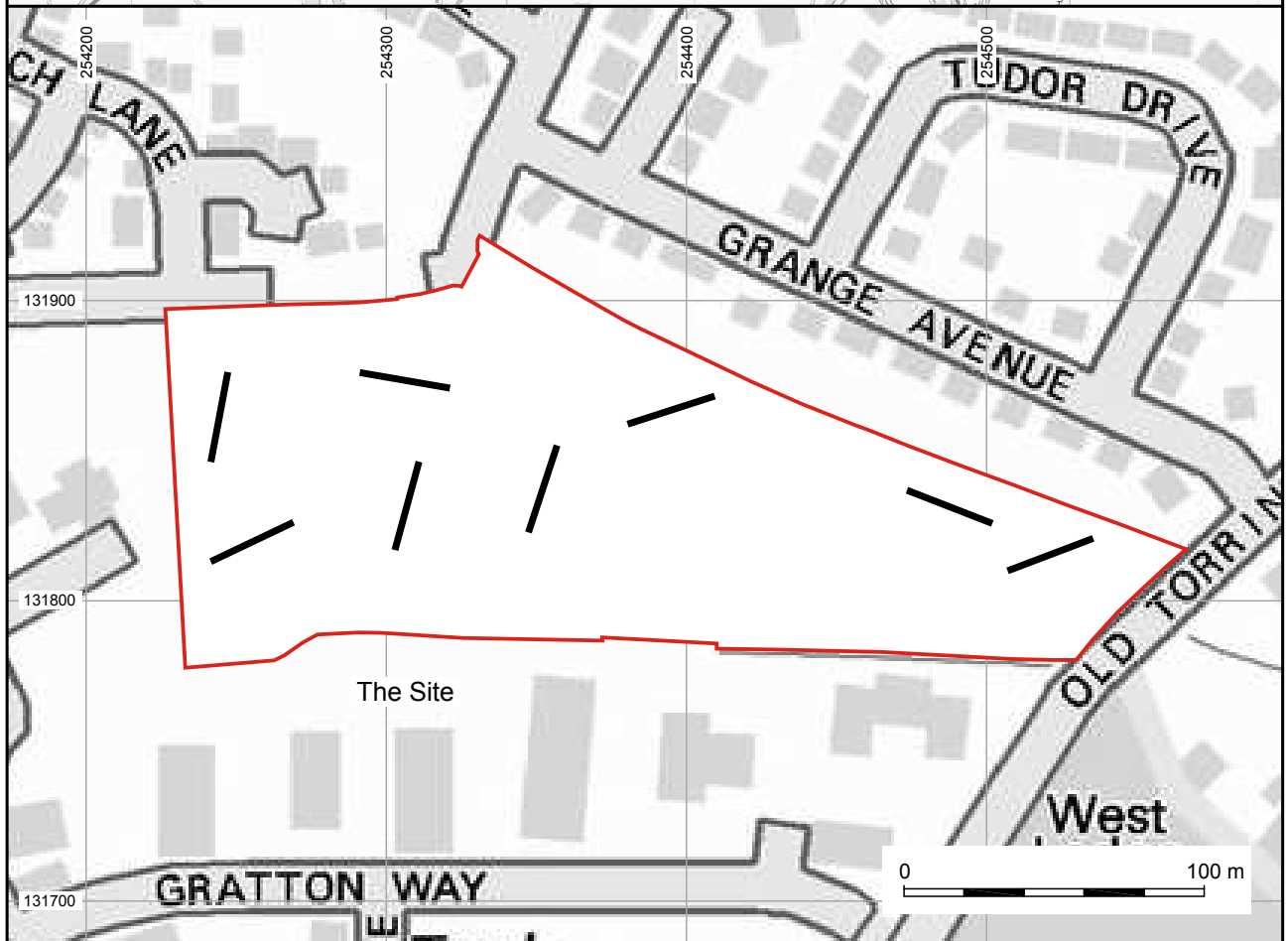
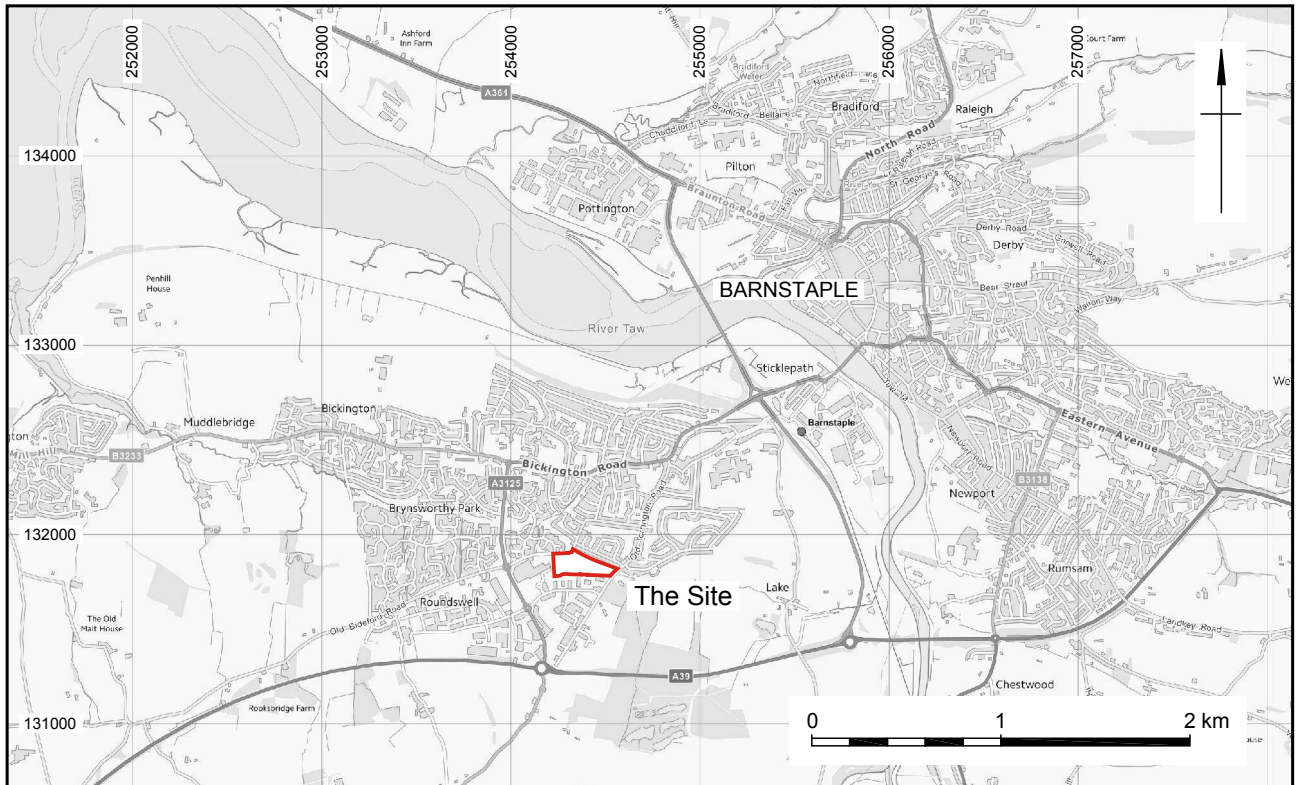


Project brief originator	Devon County Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Bruce Eaton
Project supervisor	Tom Blencowe
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Devon County Council

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Old Bideford Road, Roundswell, Barnstaple, Devon: Archaeological Evaluation Trench Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Blencowe, T./Eaton, B.
Other bibliographic details	113760.02
Date	2016

Entered by	Bruce Eaton (b.eaton@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	16 August 2016



- Site outline
- Proposed trench

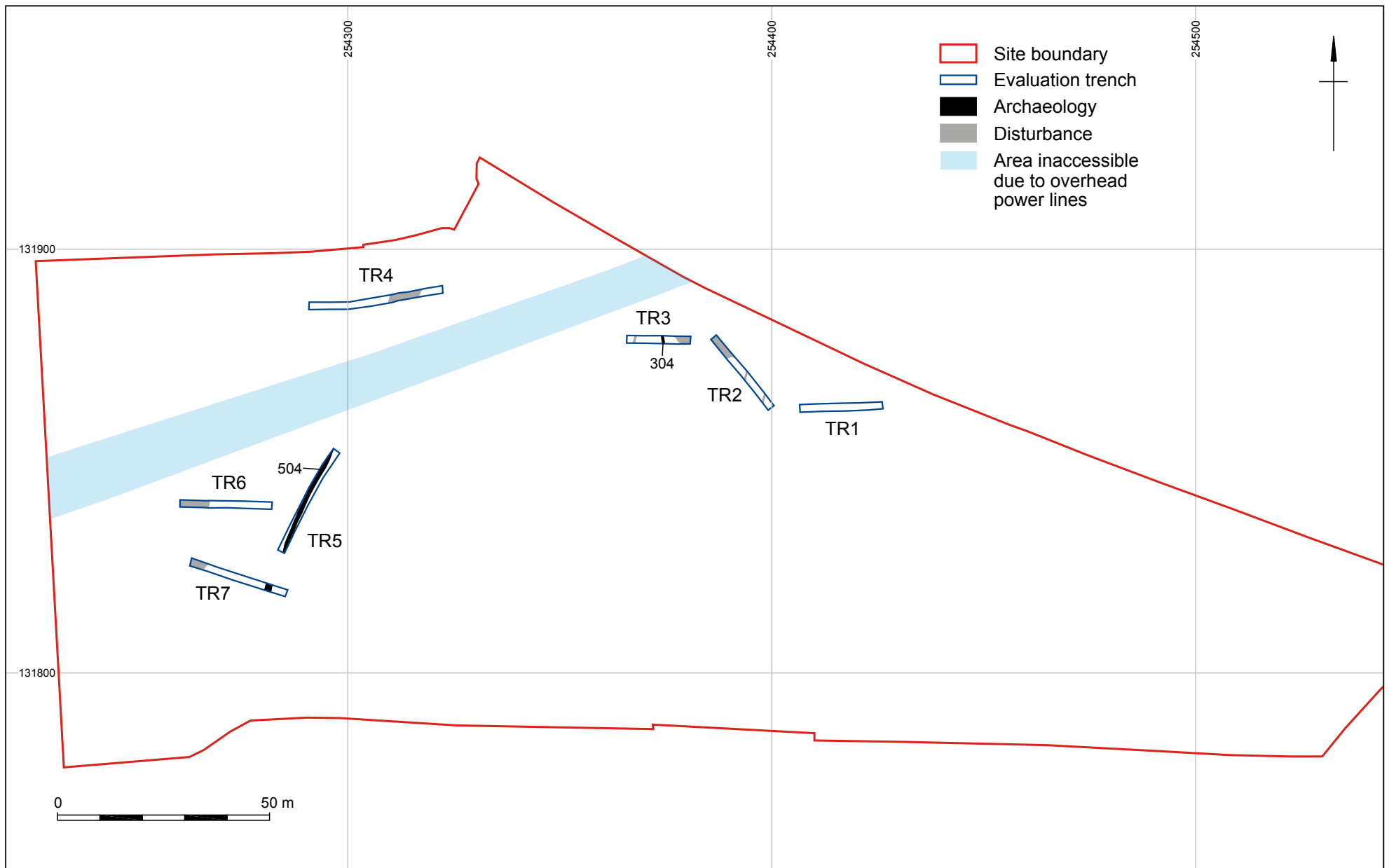



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Site outline and location of proposed evaluation trenches

Figure 1



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Site outline with excavated trench locations

Figure 2



Plate 1: View of Trench 1 from west



Plate 2: Example representative section, Trench 2, from south-west



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Plate 3: South west facing section of 504 and 506

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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



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